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TITLE OF PHOTOPLAY

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"The Rat" ✓

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DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOPLAY

"THE RAT"

A story of Paris today.

The White Coffin is an apache den, where men and women, dregs of the gay city, foregather to dance, drink or quarrel as the fancy takes them.

In these orderly days Pierre Boucheron, known as "The Rat", is one of the few apaches retaining the ancient glamour of his kind, being at the bottom of every escapade and villainy in the quarter, but he is a Rat far too wise to run into the many traps set for him by the vigilant police.

The Rat lives in an apartment with Odile Etrange as his housekeeper. He regards her purely as a sister and is unaware that her loyal little heart is aching for his love, while he, a debonair spirit, trifles with any and every girl he meets. A strange pair these two - surely.

In a smart quarter lives Zelig de Chaumet, a bored mistress of a powerful and wealthy man Herman Stetz - a man with an unenviable reputation. Zelig sets him the difficult task of finding her some new thrill, and in search of this Det: Inspector Gaillard leads him to the White Coffin. There Stetz sees Odile, who, forbidden by The Rat to set foot in the place, has come to bring him his knife, without which she fears he may come to harm. Stetz makes violent love, is repulsed, and tries to force a kiss. The Rat attacks him and forces him to leave - Stetz protesting that he will "get him yet".

Under the guidance of Caillard, Zelig and two friends visit the White Coffin where Zelig meets the Rat, just after a knife fight, and is fascinated by him. She pays frequent and furtive visits after this, not, however, escaping the eagle eyes of Stetz and Caillard.

Stetz arranges a bogus letter to the Rat purporting to come from Zelig, inviting him to the flat. The Rat dresses himself up and leaves Odile waiting for his speedy return.

Stetz, assuring himself of the Rat's absence, gains entrance to Odile's flat and forces his love on her. The Rat during a love scene with Zelig discovers the falsity of the letter and suspecting Stetz' designs, dashes hotfoot through Paris back to his rooms, where detectives are on guard outside. He gains admittance unseen through a window in time to see the fainting Odile collapse in Stetz' arms.

In a fit of passion he knifes Stetz and dashes out of the window to fix an alibi.

Caillard who has heard a cry is hammering at the door. Odile with mothering instinct for her man, lets Caillard in and confesses to the murder.

The Rat returns and expresses surprise at the scene before him, and gives his alibi which is perfect.

Odile is arrested thereupon and all the pleading of the Rat that he is guilty fails to stop the action of the Police. Odile tells him that whereas she has a chance to be acquitted, he has none.

The weary trial drags on, with the Rat almost out of his mind,

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continually stating his guilt, till people are almost ready to believe him.

Odile sends for Zelig and says that she must go into the box and say that the Rat was with her at the time of the murder. "That I, Zelig de Chaumet, received an apache" is all that the proud and selfish woman can find to say. But says Odile "I am giving him my life - surely if you too love him you can do that much."

The rat is carried away from the Court almost a raving lunatic.

The verdict of Self Defence is brought in and Odile is acquitted.

So Odile returns to the flat, and the Rat can scarcely believe his eyes, as he falls into her arms.

"Why didn't we know we loved each other, Odile?" "I have always know, my Rat, but I couldn't tell you - you wouldn't have understood."

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